CONFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT

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ENGLISH

FINAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE FOUR HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIFTH MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Tuesday, 9 September 1969, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. T. LAHODA (Czechoslovakia)

(Previous verbatim records in this series appeared under the symbols ENDC/PV.1-ENDC/PV.430)

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PRESENT AT THE TABLE

Argentina:	Mr. C. ORTIZ de ROZAS
	Mr. A.F. DUMONT
	Mr. O. SARACHO
Brazil:	Mr. P. CABRAL de MELLO
	Mr. L.F. PALMEIRA LAMPREIA
	Mr. M. DARCY de OLIVEIRA
Bulgaria:	Mr. K. CHRISTOV
	Mr. I. PEINIRDJIEV
Burma:	U KYAW MIN
Canada:	Mr. G. IGNATIEFF
	Mr. R.W. CLARK
	Mr. J.R. MORDEN
Czechoslovakia:	Mr. T. LAHODA
	Mr. M. VEJVODA
	Mr. J. CINGROS
Ethiopia:	Mr. A. ZELLEKE
Hungary:	Mr. I. KOMIVES
	Mr. I. SARKADI
	Mr. J. PETRAN
	Mr. S. HAJNAL
India:	Mr. M.A. HUSAIN
	Mr. N. KRISHNAN
	Mr. K.P. JAIN
Italy:	Mr. R. CARACCIOLO
	Mr. F.L. OTTIERI
	Mr. R. BORSARELLI
	Mr. U. PESTALOZZA

Japan:	Mr. K. ASAKAI
	Mr. T. SENGOKU
Mexico:	Mr. J. CASTANEDA
	Miss E. AGUIRRE
Mongolia:	Mr. M. DUGERSUREN
	Mr. Z. ERENDOO
Morocco:	Mr. A.A. KHATTABI
Netherlands:	Mr. H.F. ESCHAUZIER
	Mr. E. BOS
Nigeria:	Mr. C.O. HOLLIST
Pakistan:	Mr. S.A.D. BUKHARI
Poland:	Mr. A. CZARKOWSKI
	Mr. H. STEPOSZ
	Mr. R. WLAZLO
Romania:	Mr. N. ECOBESCO
	Mr. C. MITRAN
	Mr. A. SAJU
Sweden:	Mr. A. EDELSTAM
	Mr. R. BOMAN
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics:	Mr. A.A. ROSHCHIN
	Mr. R.M. TIMERBAEV
	Mr. V.B. TOULINOV
	Mr. M.P. SHELEPINE
United Arab Republic:	Mr. H. KHALLAF
	Mr. O. SIRRY
	Mr. Y. RIZK
	Mr. M. ISMAIL

United Kingdom:	Mr. T.F. PORTER
	Mr. W.N. HILLIER-FRY
	Mr. R.I.T. CROMARTIE
United States of America:	Mr. J.F. LEONARD
	Mr. A.F. NEIDLE
	Mr. W. GIVAN
	Mr. R.L. McCORMACK
Yugoslavia:	Mr. M. BOZINOVIC
	Mr. M. VUKOVIC
Special Representative of the Secretary-General:	Mr. D. PROTITCH
Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General:	Mr. W. EPSTEIN

1. The CHAIRMAN (Czechoslovakia): I declare open the 435th plenary meeting of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament.

2. Mr. CASTANEDA (Mexico) (translation from Spanish): I wish to inform the Committee on Disarmament that on the second day of this month the General Conference of the new Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America opened in Mexico City. The significance of this fact was underlined by the presence at the inaugural meeting of U Thant, Secretary-General of the United Nations, and Mr. Eklund, Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, both of whom made important speeches.

3. The Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (ENDC/186, p.12 et seq.) was opened for signature on 14 February 1967. In December of that year, resolution 2286 (XXII) of the United Nations General Assembly welcomed the Treaty "with special satisfaction" as "an event of historic significance in the efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and to promote international peace and security". (ENDC/210) The Treaty entered into force for the parties to it when they deposited their instrument of ratification, but the Agency provided for in the Treaty to ensure observance of its provisions was to be set up as soon as the Treaty had entered into force for a minimum of eleven States. That occurred in June this year. At present there are already fourteen States parties to the Treaty.

4. The setting up of the new Agency and the collective operation of the Treaty represent the culmination of five years of persistent efforts. As U Thant observed in the statement he made at the opening ceremony, the Treaty of Tlatelolco, like any great pioneering project, had given rise to serious doubts about the possibility of its achievement. Today we note with unconcealed satisfaction that the concerted and persistent efforts of the Latin American States have made this achievement possible. As U Thant said, the very difficulties we encountered made the achievement all the more remarkable and significant. The Secretary-General went on to say:

> "In a world that all too often seems dark and foreboding, the Treaty of Tlatelolco will shine as a beacon light. It is a practical demonstration to all mankind of what can be achieved if sufficient dedication and the requisite political will exist." (CCD/268, Annex III)

(Mr. Castañeda, Mexico)

5. The Secretary-General compared the Treaty of Tlatelolco with the Antarctic Treaty[1], with the Outer Space Treaty (General Assembly resolution 2222 (XXI), annex) and with the treaty which we hope will eventually be concluded on the demilitarization of the sea-bed and the ocean floor. He pointed out that the regions covered by those treaties have an element in common in that they are not inhabited, whereas the Treaty of Tlatelolco is the only one so far which applies to an important inhabited area of the earth.

6. As regards the control system of the Treaty, the Secretary-General made some important observations to which I should like to draw your attention, among other reasons, because they relate to our present tasks. He recalled first of all that the Treaty of Tlatelolco has already created some precedents in the field of control, adding that:

> "The provisions of the Treaty concerning the application of the International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards system were officially recognized as having provided the basis for a somewhat similar provision in the Non-Proliferation Treaty." (ibid.)

The Secretary-General further recalled that the Treaty of Tlatelolco also establishes a form of "complaints procedure" which has been used as a guide in other draft instruments. Indeed, I venture to add that in the section on control in the Treaty of Tlatelolco, and particularly in article 16, it is provided that any Party which suspects that some activity prohibited by the Treaty has been carried out or is about to be carried out may lodge a complaint with the Council of the Agency with a view to its investigating the matter. Taking into account the differences in respect of environment, organs and other elements which derive from the very scope of the two instruments, the United Kingdom revised draft Convention for the Prohibition of Biological Methods of Warfare (ENDC/255/Rev.1) provides, in article III, for a similar control system.

1/ United Nations Treaty Series, vol. 402, pp. 71 et seq.

(Mr. Castañeda, Mexico)

7. Lastly, I should not like to let this opportunity pass without drawing your attention to another observation made by the United Nations Secretary-General. After pointing out that the number of ratifications of the Treaty of Tlatelolco is steadily increasing, and after noting that pursuant to invitations addressed by the General Assembly to the nuclear-weapon Powers to sign and ratify Additional Protocol II of the Treaty, two of them have already affixed their signatures and have thus demonstrated their intention to respect the denuclearized status of the zone, U Thant added the following:

> "It is my hope that additional signatures and ratifications will be forthcoming soon to ensure that not only the States party to the Treaty refrain from manufacturing or acquiring nuclear weapons, but also that the nuclear-weapon Powers will refrain from stationing, deploying, using or threatening to us such weapons against any of the countries in the zone." (CCD/268, annex III)

The Conference decided to issue the following communiqué

"The Conference of the Committee on Disarmament today held its 435th plenary meeting in the Palais des Nations, Geneva, under the chairmanship of H.E. Ambassador Tomas Lahoda, representative of Czechoslovakia.

"A statement was made by the representative of Mexico.

"The next meeting of the Conference will be held of Thursday, 11 September 1969, at 10.30 a.m."

The meeting rose at 10.50 a.m.